

Abstract of the Invention

A tire inflation and handling assistance device provides an adequately stabilized and supported vertical tire support member having a hub engagement and stop structure which can be pivoted from a first generally horizontal, stable position to a stable angled position from about 50 to 75 degrees and more preferably over a range of from about 55 to 70 degrees from the horizontal to enable an uninflated hub and tire assembly to be tilted to a position engaging the tire support member and to facilitate sealing engagement in forming an inflated hub and tire assembly. The angle utilized may be dependent upon the shape and extent of engagement of the hub engagement and stop structure. With the tire inflation and handling assistance device, a worker can roll an uninflated tire and rim assembly to a position adjacent the device and tilt it onto the hub engagement and stop structure where it engages the hub. The uninflated tire and rim assembly is then tilted to a horizontal position in which the hub supports the tire to enable the bottom tire rim sealing areas to seat against the lower rim wall. Air can then be forceably blown within the remaining opening to cause the tire to expand and seal against the upper rim wall.